

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended): Apparatus for producing fatty acid methyl ester, comprising:

at least one container for fats;

a tank for alkaline solution;

a tank for alcohol;

a mixing vessel for compounding the alkaline solution and the alcohol;

a reaction section which comprises a static mixer and is connected to the at least one container and the mixing vessel through a high pressure pump with a pressure up to 200 bar for introducing the fats and the alkaline solution to the reaction section; and

a separation unit downstream from the reaction section.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

Claim 3. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the static mixer comprises a pipe.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pipe is filled with balls of various sizes.

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Claim 5. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the pipe comprises at least one of a ~~baffle, a propeller, and a resistor~~ baffles, blades and resistors.

Claims 6-12 (Canceled)

Claim 13. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separation unit comprises a filtration unit.

Claim 14. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the filtration unit comprises a surface filter comprising a membrane.

Claim 15. (Original): The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the surface filter comprises a porous carrier and a layer applied to the porous carrier, which layer acts as a membrane.

Claim 16. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the porous carrier comprises a pipe.

Claim 17. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the porous carrier comprises one of aluminum oxide, porous glass, and silicate.

Claim 18. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the layer acting as a membrane has at least one of lipophilic, hydrophilic, and amphoteric properties.

Claim 19. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the layer acting as a membrane comprises a ceramic membrane.

Claim 20. (Original): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the ceramic membrane comprises one of titanium dioxide and zirconium dioxide.

Claim 21. (Original): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the layer acting as a membrane has a pore size which is at least one of a nano pore size and a micro pore size.

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Claim 22. (Original): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the pore size is 5-200 nm.

Claim 23. (Original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the filtration unit comprises one of a molecular sieve filter and a molecular sieve membrane.

Claim 24. (original): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the filtration unit comprises a multiphase filter.

Claim 25. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separation unit comprises a distillation unit comprising at least one evaporator and at least one condenser.

Claim 26. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a distillation unit comprising at least one evaporator and at least one condenser downstream from the separation unit.

Claim 27. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a down-flow evaporator.

Claim 28. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a thin-layer evaporator.

Claim 29. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a rotation flow evaporator.

Claim 30. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a distillation unit which is upstream of the separation unit.

Claim 31. (Original): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an additional separation unit downstream from the separation unit.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the additional separation unit is connected to the reaction section by a connecting pipe from the at least one container for the fats.

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Claims 33-34. (canceled)

Claim 35. (Presently Presented): The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a flash reactor downstream of the reaction section for evaporating surplus alcohol.